

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Cancel claims 2 and 13 – 16, without prejudice.

**Listing of Claims:**

2 and 13-16, cancelled.

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A starting device (100) for ~~at least one~~ an internal combustion engine, in particular a pull-rope type starting device for ~~at least one~~ a two-stroke or four-stroke motor, which comprises at least one pulley or rope drum (4) which is rotatably held in ~~at least one~~ a housing (1), wherein said starting device, for generating the drive torque for ~~the~~ a motor shaft by means of ~~at least one~~ a handle (10), in particular by means of ~~at least one~~ a starter handle or pull handle, is rotatable by way of ~~at least one~~ a load transfer means (9), in particular by way of ~~at least one~~ a starter rope or pull-rope, and by way of ~~at least one~~ an elastic coupling element (6), in particular by way of ~~at least one~~ a spiral spring, is connected to ~~at least one~~ an engaging element (5), in particular to ~~at least one~~ a ratchet-type engaging element, by means of which the drive torque can be transmitted to the motor shaft,

characterised in that

the angle of rotation by which the ratchet-type engaging element (5) is rotatable in relation to the pulley or rope drum (4) by exerting a load on the elastic coupling element (6) is limitable to ~~at least one~~ a specifiable maximum angular value by a limit stop arranged on an the underside of the engaging element, which underside faces the pulley or rope drum.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 2 1, characterised in that the limit stop ~~(13; 13')~~ is shaped as a circular segment or arc-shaped segment, and/or is guided in a guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~, in particular formed in the manner of a section of an arc of a circle, with said guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~ being provided in the pulley or rope drum ~~(4)~~.
4. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the limit stop ~~(13; 13')~~ comes to rest against ~~at least one~~ a rest surface ~~(15; 15')~~ in particular at the end of the guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~.
5. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 4, characterised in that the rest surface ~~(15; 15')~~ is formed by the closed end of the guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~ and/or in the form of ~~at least one~~ a limit stop damping device, in particular a limit stop damping device made of elastomer material, provided for damped stopping of the rotary movement.
6. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 1, characterised in that two limit stops ~~(13; 13')~~ are provided which are arranged so as to be essentially diametrically opposed to each other, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other.
7. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim 6, characterised in that each of the two limit stops ~~(13; 13')~~ is guided in ~~at least one~~ a respective guide groove ~~(14; 14')~~ ~~each~~, and in that the ~~two~~ guide grooves ~~(14; 14')~~ are arranged in the pulley or rope drum ~~(4)~~ so as to be essentially mirror inverted, and/or so as to be offset by approximately 180 degrees in relation to each other.

8. (Currently amended) The starting device according to claim ~~6 or 7~~, characterised in that, for the purpose of achieving the maximum angular value, the two limit stops (~~13, 13'~~) come to rest against their respective rest surfaces (~~15, 15'~~) at the same time, in particular at the end of the their respective guide groove (~~14, 14'~~).
9. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterised in that the maximum angular value which is provided when the starting device (~~100~~) is activated, in particular when the handle (~~10~~) is pulled, is in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees divided by the number of limit stops (~~13, 13'~~) used, i.e. in particular in the magnitude of approximately 270 degrees to approximately 280 degrees if one limit stop (~~13~~) is provided; or in the magnitude of approximately 135 degrees to approximately 140 degrees if two limit stops (~~13, 13'~~) are provided.
10. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims~~ claim 1 to 9, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element (~~6~~) failing or breaking down, the engaging element (~~5~~) is rotatable if the starting device (~~100~~) is activated, in particular if the handle (~~10~~) is pulled.
11. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 2 to 8 and according to claim 10~~ claim 4, characterised in that in the case of the coupling element (~~6~~) failing or breaking down, the engaging element (~~5~~), as a result of the limit stop (~~13~~) resting against the rest surface (~~15~~), is rotatable when the starting device (~~100~~) is activated, in particular when the handle (~~10~~) is pulled.
12. (Currently amended) The starting device according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterised in that the coupling element (~~6~~) is

pretensioned or comprises pretension.

13. Canceled.
14. Canceled.
15. Canceled.
16. Canceled.
17. (New). The starting device according to claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine is associated with a work tool.
18. (New). The starting device according to claim 17, wherein the work tool comprises a portable hand tool comprising a brush cutter, a chain saw, a motor saw, or an abrasive cutting-off machine.